

**MINUTES OF THE
HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 20, 2006**

The regular session of the Auburn City Historical Design Review Commission was called to order on June 20, 2006 at 6:02 p.m. by Chrm. Thompson in the Council Chambers, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kosla, Merz, Smith, Worthington, Briggs,
Elder, Kidd, Chrm. Thompson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT Will Wong, Community Development
Director; Reg Murray, Senior Planner;
Sue Fraizer, Administrative Assistant

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

Chrm. Thompson welcomed Commissioner Dorene Kidd as a new member of the Historic Design Review Commission.

ITEM II: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 6, 2006 were approved as submitted.

ITEM IV: PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM V: PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- A. **Historic Design Review – I-80 Near Ophir Road On-Ramp.** The City of Auburn is soliciting comments from the Historic Design Review Commission for a new gateway tower structure proposed just west of the Old Town Historic District on the south side of Interstate 80. The gateway tower, replicating a mining tower structure, will serve as an

entry feature to the City of Auburn for East-bound traffic on Interstate 80.

Planner Murray gave the staff report. This item is before the Commission as an informational item. The City is considering a gateway sign program. This is the first gateway sign. The commissioners have been provided with a color representation of what the tower would look like. It would be situated on City property on Interstate 80 near the Ophir Road on-ramp. It is proposed to be 42 feet tall, with a corrugated metal roof, a wood structure and would serve as an identifier as a motorists enter town on I-80. Other signs will be placed in other locations. This is the Commission's opportunity to view the proposed sign and offer comments.

Comm. Merz commented about the importance of the wording to be placed on the sign.

Planner Murray indicated that there is a new drawing which was given to each Commissioner before tonight's meeting which shows a modification in the wording.

Comm. Worthington stated her concerns about construction access and traffic management.

City Manager Bob Richardson stated that the City acquired the property two years ago. This particular site will be a real challenge logistically for construction of the sign. They've looked at the best route to achieve the best result.

Comm. Worthington said she is pleased to see that there will be lighting. She asked about the discrepancy in the year of establishment of the City which is shown as two different years in the sample renderings.

Mr. Richardson said that the sign will probably simply say "Auburn, Historic Old Town Next Exit". They have not yet decided the exact verbiage.

Comm. Worthington asked where the other signs will be placed.

Mr. Richardson said that the existing contract includes three signs. Another will be placed further East on I-80, just before the Elm Ave. turn-off, and another on Highway 49 in downtown, just before you drop into town.

Comm. Worthington asked if there was any discussion with the business association regarding a blending of the Historic significance of this sign representing Gold Mining and a modern day theme of the Endurance Capital.

Mr. Richardson stated that there will be a convergence of a number of items along the I-80 corridor. This first portion is only one element. They are planning another mural on eastbound I-80 on the block wall below the Elk's Lodge, and other treatments on the other side of the freeway.

Comm. Worthington suggested that the City discuss this with CalTrans to get their input.

Comm. Elder asked about the steps going up to the building which do not go all the way to the ground. She feels this will encourage vandalism.

Mr. Richardson responded that the steps will actually go all the way to the ground. In addition, it is a difficult location to get to.

Chrm. Thompson asked if the other signs will have a similar theme.

Mr. Richardson said that one of the signs is a fairly dramatic departure, but they will be asking for input from the Commission.

Comm. Kosla stated that his only worry is that this will be another gold-mining feature in the City, but it won't compliment the City. He asked if this sign will be artistic in nature.

Mr. Richardson responded that the sign will have two elements. Number one is the height of the structure. It will be quite dominant. Number two is the lighting, which can be very dramatic. They're looking for old barns to find truly old corrugated roofing. Their desire is to create something complimentary to the community.

Comm. Kosla asked if there will also be something in Old Town that directs people to the Downtown district.

Mr. Richardson said yes, there will be.

Comm. Briggs asked if the sign could say, “Historic Auburn, Next Three Exits” so that people have more than one opportunity to exit.

Mr. Richardson said that this was discussed, and a decision was made to say “Next Exit”, with the two other signs pointing out the other exits. They felt if too much information was provided, motorists would not have enough time to read it as they drove past.

Comm. Kidd agreed with Comm. Briggs.

Mr. Richardson stated that the critical element is drive time by the site, so they felt the best approach is the use of the other signs. They will, however consider it.

ITEM VI:

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- A. **Historic Design Review – 160 Sacramento Street (Awful Annie’s – File HDR 06-16.** The applicant requests approval of one awning over the rear deck entrance, two front window signs, and two front door signs at 160 Sacramento Street (Awful Annie’s Restaurant).

Planner Murray gave the staff report. The window signs were seen by Staff when the inspection was done. These signs were not previously permitted and the applicant is seeking approval for these signs. In addition, the applicant would like to add an awning over the rear entrance to match the other awnings on the building. Staff recommends approval of this project.

Comm. Kosla asked if signs are applied for in the Historic District, does someone from Staff return to the site after several months to ensure that the signs are in compliance.

Planner Murray replied that the building or planning department would be inspecting it.

Comm. Worthington asked if when the building was inspected, were the signs found to be out of compliance.

Planner Murray stated that when the building was inspected, Staff had a list of items to be corrected. At that time, Staff

found window signs that were already placed, and they informed the applicant that an application was necessary so that the signs could be reviewed by the Commission so that they could be permitted.

There were no further comments. The public hearing was closed.

Comm. Kosla **MOVED** to:

Adopt Resolution No. 06-10 as presented, approving one new awning, two (2) front window signs and two (2) front window signs and two (2) front door signs for the Awful Annie's Restaurant at 160 Sacramento Street.

Chrm. Thompson **SECONDED**.

AYES: Kosla, Merz, Smith, Worthington, Briggs,
Elder, Kidd, Chrm. Thompson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

The motion was approved.

ITEM VII: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

- A. The Methodist Church appeal will be heard at the City Council Meeting on June 26, 2006.
- B. There will not be a meeting on July 4 due to the holiday. There will be a meeting on July 18.

ITEM VIII: HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

ITEM IX: FUTURE HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ITEM X: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fraizer, Administrative Assistant